

A

# REVIEW

OF THE

# STATE

OF THE

# BRITISH NATION.

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Saturday, February 3. 1711.

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**I** Left off in my last, Expostulating with my Coy Lady CREDIT, about the hasty Resolution she had taken, of abandoning this Nation; she gave me a long Account of the Hardships she had undergone on every Side, both from Friend and Foe; how she had been negligently dropt by some, despondingly forsaken by others; Maliciously abandon'd by one Party, and Politickly slighted by another, so that she found few left that had so much of a Publick Spirit remaining, to regard her as a general Good; that for her part, she was ever esteem'd as a publick Blessing, wherever she went till now; and that having

sunk her self so much in the Esteem of the Nation, she thought it was time for her to look Abroad, and see how she should be us'd among other People.

I could not deny but she had suffer'd very much, had been ill used among some People of every Side; but that principally, all the wilful Attempts against her, were *Popish* and *Jacobite*; she shook her Head, and complain'd of some that she thought had been her Friends—— But I put her off from that, with the Apostles Words to the *Jews* in another Case, *I wist Brethren that through Ignorance you did, as did also your Rulers*; I convinc'd her, that in general,

neral, all her Old Friends were her true Friends still, and perhaps the only Friends that must yet Contribute to restore her to her former Splendor, if ever it be recover'd in England; and that whatever they might have been mov'd to do in point of Resentment, they had still a stronger desire to support and defend her; ~~That her~~ <sup>They</sup> were satisfy'd that it could be no Body's Interest to hurt her, but those who desir'd to weaken the Nation's Interest, in the Case of France; that the War being chiefly supported by her Assistance, no Body could wish her any Harm, but those, that at the same time, would blow up the Interest of the Revolution, abandon our Liberties, and give us all up to France.

She reply'd, she was not distinguishing between Folly and Knavery; that the Injury done her, was it's true, a Wound to the Nation, but if some Men, *felo de se*, would stab their own Interest through her Sides, tho' they meant no ill, her Injury was not the less; that it was no matter to a Man that had his House fir'd, whether the incendiary be a *Mad-Man* or a *Villain*, the Loss was the same; and that it was no more her Business to dwell among Fools, than among Knaves — Yet she own'd, she did not lay so much stress upon the Neglect some of her Ignorant Friends might have put upon her, as upon the Tumults and Rabbles of those People call'd High-Flyers, whose new-fashion'd Behaviour was so inconsistent with the very Nature and Essence of a Nation's Peace, and whose Principles were so unsafe to a Constitution, that where-ever they prevail'd, Credit could have no Habitation; she told me I knew her Temper, that it was Essential to her Life to dwell in Peace, to be guarded by Property, defended by Law, and supported by Safety; that Credit could never consist with Arbitrary Power, because Property had there no Fence; nor could she subsist with Passive Submission, because every Subject that owned that Doctrine was oblig'd to prostitute her to the Lust of every Tyrant; less was she able to dwell with *Non-Resistance*, for then she was expos'd to

be Trampled on by every Invader — From hence she told me plainly in few Words, thus.

1. That she was not so much a Votary to Statesmen, to despair upon every Change; That she could live with one Ministry as well as another, one Parliament as well as another, and with every one of these, while they preserv'd the Honour of a punctual Management of Affairs, for that Credit and Honour were inseparable; if they were not really Incorporated, they were born, and must die together, nor could they ever live asunder. *But,*

2. That it was impossible to be done, and therefore in vain to think of it, that ever she, (*Credit*), could live or subsist upon High-Flying Principles; *Non-Resistance* and *Credit*, *Passive Obedience* and *Credit*, are as contrary, as Summer and Winter, as Light and Darkness, as Death and Life; Credit can never Exist where Property is not safe, and how can Property be safe, where it is subjected to the Arbitrary Dispose of a Tyrant Prince?

3. That therefore it was not so much a Whig or a Tory Project, or Party, that had thus Affronted her, but that really the bringing in those absurd Doctrines of Absolute Submission, &c. were so many Declarations of War against her; That either those Ridiculous Systems must be exploded and discourag'd among us, or it was impossible for her to stay; Spiders would live as well in Ireland, as Credit subsist where Men by Principle subject their Property to Oppression; that the Thing was incongruous, inconsistent, and unnatural, and could by no Means be.

These really were such forcible Arguments, that I had nothing to say against them; but I palliated the matter as well as I could, told her, that tho' a Party had begun to cry up these Things, and a few High-Flying Clergymen had talk'd it up, that Passive Obedience was the Doctrine of  
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of the Church of *England*; yet that really and openly speaking, we did not in general believe any Thing of it, nor did our Clergy themselves ever praise it, as was eminently Famous in the Case of the late *K. James*—— That upon all Occasions of Oppression, they ever did and ever will, Resist; Rebel, take up Arms, call in Foreign, and fly in the Face of Arbitrary Power Vigorously and Successfully; see the *London Address*, &c.

She took me up short here—— And said, my endeavouring to prove the pretence to Passive Obedience Hypocritical, would not at all mend the matter, for if they pretended to what they would not perform on one Hand, so they might on the other, and declaring them *K——s* in every Thing, would add little to Encourage herself (*Credit*) to live among them; for this was but to say, the *High Flyers* were in general, a perfidious Race of Men, dissembling with God and the Queen, that no Trust was to be plac'd in them, and by Consequence, no Credit to be given to them—— And from this, she ask'd me this short Question, and press'd me to give a direct Answer.

*If High Flying comes to be the Mode in Britain, is it possible Credits can be able to live among you?*

I really could not tell how to give a direct Answer to this Question, at least, not


till I had made a little previous Enquiry into the Meaning or Acceptation of the Word *High-Flying*.

I desired her first to explain herself, but she declin'd it—— So I put it by Way of Enquiry, thus; If, Madam, said I, you mean by High Flying, barely High-Church Men, as the Publick Bodies of People seem now to be Chang'd, it is not a fair Question, or it may not be safe to answer it directly—— Or I might say, many of those we call by that Name, may, however mistaken, be your good Friends in the main.

But if you mean such as declare themselves for the Doctrines of Passive Obedience and Non-Resistance, whether they will praise it or no, for if they will not praise it for themselves, they may for another; if you mean those that take Oaths and Abjurations against him they own and pray for, that Damn him and drink his Health, and that fight against him and own him, altogether; if you mean such, I acknowledge, that while such Men are allow'd to Act, or are receiv'd into the Administration of Affairs, or have any Hand in Publick Matters, Credit cannot subsist, cannot dwell among us.

Well, says she, then this is the Reason why I am a going Abroad, therefore pray do not stay me—— But hold, Madam, said I—— The Parliament—— And with that she stop'd again—— And what farther pass'd, you shall hear hereafter.

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the Author hopes he may please you all, and may have an opportunity to lay down the unpleasant Subject of the Nation's Division; Thing he has long desir'd to do.

The Proposals shall be Publish'd in this P<sup>er</sup>

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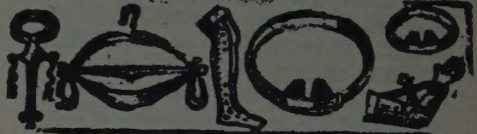
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